

Chapter NR 18

FALCONRY

NR 18.01	Definitions	NR 18.10	Classes of permits
NR 18.02	Application	NR 18.11	Duration of permits and renewal procedures
NR 18.03	Permit and license requirements	NR 18.12	Taking and disposal restrictions
NR 18.04	Falconry hunting	NR 18.13	Temporary care
NR 18.05	Examination	NR 18.14	Transportation; temporary holding
NR 18.06	Application procedure	NR 18.15	Release of marked raptors
NR 18.07	Inspection of facilities and equipment	NR 18.16	Permit conditions
NR 18.08	Unsatisfactory conditions	NR 18.17	Other restrictions
NR 18.09	Issuance criteria		

NR 18.01 Definitions. (1) "Raptor" means a live, migratory bird of the following family groups:

1. Falconidae - Falcons, Merlin and Kestrel.
 2. Accipitridae - Buteos, Accipiters, Kites, Harriers and Eagles, excluding the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).
 3. Strigidae - limited to only the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*).
- (2) "Falconry" means the sport of taking or attempting to take quarry by means of a trained raptor.
- (3) "Take" means to trap, capture or pursue or attempt to trap, capture or pursue, a raptor for the purposes of falconry.
- (4) "Marker" means a numbered, non-reusable marker supplied by the fish and wildlife service.
- (5) "Imping" means a method of repairing broken flight or tail feathers.
- (6) "Hacked back" means a gentle or gradual release technique used by falconers whereby a raptor released back into the wild is fully capable of competing with other wild raptors.
- (7) "Replacement raptor" means a raptor obtained to replace one which has died in captivity, has escaped, or is released to the wild.
- (8) "Department" means the department of natural resources.
- (9) "Fish & wildlife service" means U.S. department of interior - fish & wildlife service.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 18.02 Application. (1) The raptors covered by this chapter include species whose range extends into any part of Mexico or the United States. All individual birds of such species whether or not raised in captivity, and including any subspecies, even if the range of such subspecies does not include parts of the above countries, are covered by these regulations.

(2) The importation of any wildlife from a foreign source must be in compliance with federal laws or regulations.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 18.03 Permit and license requirements. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess or transport any raptor for falconry purposes or practice falconry in Wisconsin unless a valid falconry permit has been issued pursuant to this chapter or issued by another state provided that state is listed in the federal regulations as a state meeting federal falconry standards.

(a) *Residents.* The department may issue a falconry permit to a holder of a valid small game or sports hunting license under s. NR 18.11 provided that the permit holder meets the standards of this chapter.

(b) *Nonresidents.* Persons not residing in Wisconsin may take, possess or transport any raptor from Wisconsin except merlin (*Falco columbarius*) or endangered and threatened species provided they are in possession of a valid nonresident small game or general hunting license and meet the appropriate requirements of this chapter.

(2) The falconry permit must be in the possession of the permit holder when engaged in any falconry activity.

(3) No person shall transfer the falconry permit or falconry markers or permit the use thereof by any other persons, nor shall any person while engaged in falconry, use or carry any permit or marker issued to another.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (a) and r. and recr. (1) (b), Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82.

NR 18.04 Falconry hunting. (1) **ESTABLISHED SEASONS.** In addition to the seasons established by ch. NR 10, falconry permit holders may hunt upland game birds and animals described in s. NR 10.01 (2) and (3) September 1 through March 31, except cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel and gray squirrel may be hunted year-round.

(2) **LET LAY RULE.** A falconry permit holder whose raptor accidentally kills any protected animal during the closed season or a protected animal or sex during the open hunting season shall leave the dead animal where it lies. The raptor may feed upon the dead animal prior to leaving the kill site.

Note: Daily kill and possession limits, hunting hours and other rules established for hunting by chs. 10, 11 and 15 and ch. 29, Stats., apply.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; r. and recr. Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82; r. and recr. Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8-1-87.

NR 18.05 Examination. (1) Prior to submitting an application, each new applicant or person whose prior permit has been expired or revoked for a period of more than 2 years shall be required to answer correctly at least 80% of the questions on a supervised examination.

(2) The examination shall be provided by the fish and wildlife service and administered by a representative of the department relating to the basic biology, care and handling of raptors, literature, laws and regulations governing the sport of falconry.

Register, July, 1987, No. 379

(3) Applicants failing the required examination may repeat the exam after 30 days. Should a second failure occur, a one-year waiting period is required before the examination sequence may be repeated.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78.

NR 18.06 Application procedure. An individual who wishes to practice falconry, after successfully passing the examination, must submit an

Next page is numbered 207